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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A fire retardant composition comprising:

(a) water in an amount at least sufficient to dissolve the following (b) to (e) water soluble components up to an amount to be non corrosive,

- (b) a highly concentrated alkali, selected from a group, consisting of at least one of, or a combination thereof, of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide and/or lithium hydroxide,
- (c) at least one of, or a combination thereof, of anhydrous citric acid, citric acid, acetic acid or a related salt thereto,
 - (d) a phosphate,
- (e) an alkali metal salt or compound selective from at least one of, or in combination with lithium, sodium and/or potassium cation in combination with at least one of an acetate, bicarbonate, carbonate and/or hydroxide anion,

wherein said composition is adjusted to a pH value between 6.5 to 7.5 by an amount of (b) and/or (c) respectively.

- 2. **(Original)** The composition of claim 1, wherein the concentrate of the acetic acid is above 90%.
- 3. **(Currently amended)** The composition of any one of the preceding claims claim 1, wherein the highly concentrated alkali is at a concentration of greater than 80%.
- 4. **(Original)** The composition of claim 3 wherein the highly concentrated alkali is potassium hydroxide.

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5. **(Currently amended)** The composition of any one of the preceding claims claim 1, wherein the phosphate is tetra potassium pyro phosphate.

- 6. **(Original)** The composition of claim 5 further comprising an anhydrous dipotassium carbonate.
- 7. **(Original)** The composition of claim 6 further comprising a softening agent.
- 8. **(Original)** The composition of claim 7 wherein the composition is adjusted for a resultant specific gravity in the range of 1.1 to 1.4.
- 9. **(Original)** The composition of claim 8 wherein the composition has a specific gravity of about 1.3.
- 10. **(Currently amended)** The composition of any one of the preceding claims claim 1, wherein the alkali metal salt or compound is potassium acetate.
- 11. **(Original)** The composition of claim 7 comprising the range of about 28% to 38% by weight of said water.
- 12. **(Original)** The composition of claim 11 comprising the range of 15% to 25% by weight of the highly concentrated alkali.
- 13. **(Original)** The composition of claim 12 wherein said highly concentrated alkali is potassium hydroxide.
- 14. **(Original)** The composition of claim 13 wherein said component (c) is a combination of citric acid and acetic acid.
- 15. **(Original)** The composition of claim 14 comprising in the range of about 8% to 13% by weight of said acidic acid.

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16. **(Original)** The composition of claim 13 comprising in the range of about 17% to 24% by weight of said acetic acid.

- 17. **(Currently amended)** The composition of any one of preceding claims 11 to 16 claim 16, comprising in the range of about 6% to 10% by weight of dipotassium carbonate.
- 18. **(Currently amended)** The composition of any one of preceding claims 11 to 17 claim 17, comprising in the range of about 2% to 3% by weight of tetra potassium pyrophosphate.
- 19. **(Original)** The composition of claim 18 comprising in the range of about 3% to 5% sodium hydrogen carbonate.
- 20. **(Original)** The composition according to claim 19 comprising in the range of about .5% to 1.5% softening agent.
- 21. **(Original)** A method for the production for flame retardant composition wherein the following components are added in sequence to a vessel under stirring;
- (a) water in an amount at least sufficient to dissolve the following (b) to (e) water soluble components up to an amount to be non corrosive,
- (b) a highly concentrated alkali, selected from a group, consisting of at least one of, or a combination thereof, of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide and/or lithium hydroxide,
- (c) at least one of, or a combination thereof, of anhydrous citric acid, citric acid, acetic acid or a related salt thereto,
 - (d) a phosphate,

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(e) an alkali metal salt or compound selective from at least one of, or in combination with lithium, sodium and/or potassium cation in combination with at least one of an acetate, bicarbonate, carbonate and/or hydroxide anion,

whereby the added components are adapted such that the final product has a pH value within the range of 6.5 to 7.5 and a density within the range of 1.2 to 1.4.

- 22. **(Original)** A method for the production for flame retardant composition wherein a method for producing a fire retardant composition characterized in that the following components are added in sequence to the vessel under stirring:
 - (k) water;
 - (I) potassium hydroxide;
 - (m) acidic acid;
 - (n) citric acid;
 - (o) dipotassium carbonate;
 - (p) tetra potassium pyro phosphate
 - (q) sodium hydrogen carbonate;
 - (r) softener

whereby, the added components are adapted such that the final product has a pH value within the interval of 6.5 to 7.5 and a density within the range of 1.2 to 1.4.

23. (**Currently amended**) The method according to either claim 21 or 22, characterised in that the components added under stirring are simultaneously influenced by an energy wave, generated mechanically, Serial No.: (PCT/AU2003/000980) Docket No.: 66352-035-7

during the simultaneous influence of a variable magnetic field, applied externally.

24. (Original) The fire retardant composition of claim 1 further comprising an expansion agent, propellant or compressed gas to produce a fire retardant foam.

25-26. (Cancel).

27. (New) The method according to claim 21, characterised in that the components added under stirring are simultaneously influenced by an energy wave, generated mechanically, during the simultaneous influence of a variable magnetic field, applied externally.